## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amendments to the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

Cancel claims 4 and 10 without prejudice.

1. (currently amended) A method of selectively disrupting a red blood cell, the method comprising the steps of: (a) providing a red blood cell; (b) ~~electrosensitising said~~ sensitising the red blood cell by exposing it to an electric field; ~~and~~ (c) loading the red blood cell with an agent *in vitro* or *ex-vivo*; and (d) disrupting ~~said~~ the red blood cell by subjecting ~~said~~ the red blood cell to ultrasound.

2. (currently amended) The [[a]] method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said electrosensitizing~~ the sensitising comprises the step of applying an electric pulse to a red blood cell.

3. (currently amended) The method ~~or use~~ according to claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ the electric pulse is in the range of 0.1 kVolts/cm to 10 kVolts/cm under *in vitro* conditions.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[4]] 1, in which the sensitisation of the red blood cell precedes the loading of the agent.

6. (currently amended) The method ~~or use~~ according to claim [[4]] 1, in which the loading of the agent precedes the sensitisation of the red blood cell.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[4]] 1, in which the sensitisation of the red blood cell and the loading of the agent are simultaneous.

8. (currently amended) A method for selectively releasing an agent from a red blood cell comprising the steps of:

(a) loading a red blood cell with an agent *in vitro* or *ex-vivo*;

(b) ~~electrosensitising~~ sensitising the red blood cell by exposing it to an electric field; and

(c) causing the agent to be released from the sensitised red blood cell by applying ultrasound at a frequency and energy sufficient to cause

disruption of the red blood cell but insufficient to cause disruption of unsensitised red blood cells.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~7~~ 8, in which the ~~electrosensitisation~~ sensitisation procedure is an *in vitro* or *ex-vivo* procedure.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~10~~ 8, in which the electric field is applied as an electric pulse ~~is~~ from about 0.1 kVolts/cm to about 10 kVolts/cm under *in vitro* conditions.

12. (original) The method according to claim 3 or 11, in which the electric pulse is applied for between 1 μs and 100 milliseconds.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1 or 8, in which the ultrasound is selected from the group consisting of diagnostic ultrasound, therapeutic ultrasound and a combination of diagnostic and therapeutic ultrasound.

14. (original) The method according to claim 13, in which the applied ultrasound energy source is at a power level of from about 0.05 W/cm$^2$ to about 100 W/cm$^2$.

15. (currently amended) A method for delivering an agent to a target site in a vertebrate, comprising the steps of:

(a) loading a red blood cell with an agent *in vitro* or *ex-vivo*;

(b) ~~electrosensitising~~ sensitising the red blood cell by exposing it to an electric field;

(c) introducing the red blood cell ~~into~~ to the target site in a vertebrate by transfusion or infusion; and

(d) causing the agent to be released from the sensitised red blood cell by applying ultrasound at a frequency and energy sufficient to cause disruption of the red blood cell but insufficient to cause disruption of unsensitised red blood cells.

16. (original) The method according to claim 15, in which the red blood cell of step (c) comprises polyethylene glycol on its surface.

17. (original) The method according to clam 15, in which the vertebrate is a mammal.

18. (original) The method according to claim 8 or 15, in which the loading of the agent is simultaneous with the sensitisation of the red blood cell.

19. (currently amended) The method according to ~~of~~ claim 8 or 15, in which the sensitisation of the red blood cell precedes the loading of the agent.

20. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claims~~ claim 8 or 15, in which the loading of the agent precedes the sensitisation of the red blood cell.

21. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[4]] 1, 8 or 15, in which the loading is performed by a procedure selected from a group consisting of electroporation, sonoporation, microinjection, membrane intercalation, microparticle bombardment, lipid-mediated transfection, ~~viral infection,~~ osmosis, osmotic pulsing, diffusion, endocytosis, and crosslinking to a red blood cell surface component.

22. (currently amended) [[A]] The method ~~or use~~ according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, 8 or 15, in which the agent is[[,]] a polypeptide, ~~or~~ a nucleic acid, or a virus.

23. (original) The method according to claim 22, in which the agent is combined with an imaging agent.